

Docket No. 9958-002-27 CONT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: JOHN SHANNON ET AL.
SERIAL NO: NEW CONTINUATION APPLICATION
FILING DATE: HEREWITH
FOR: METHODS AND ORGANISMS FOR CONCENTRATING AND
RECOVERING METALS AND MINERALS FROM AQUEOUS MEDIA

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, entry of the following amendments to the above-captioned patent application is respectfully requested.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-22.

Please add new Claims 23-32 as indicated below.

23. (New) A method of recovering metals and minerals from sea water, comprising:
contacting a sponge that harbors bacteria capable of concentrating said metal or mineral with sea water to concentrate the metal or mineral in the bacteria; and
recovering the concentrated metal or mineral from the bacteria.

24. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein said bacteria is a transgenic bacteria that expresses a heterologous gene that encodes a protein that improves the ability of said bacteria to concentrate said metal or mineral.